

One Race: The Higher Order of Love
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August 11-12, 2018

Acts 17:26 NKJ

“And He has made from ONE BLOOD every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings ...”

Colossians 3:11 NCV

In the new life there is no difference between Greeks and Jews, those who are circumcised and those who are not circumcised, or people who are foreigners, or Scythians. There is no difference between slaves and free people. But Christ is in all believers, and Christ is all that is important.

“Race is mostly a social theory that was devised and refined over the centuries to serve the economic and religious goals of a majority culture, first in European territory, then later in America. Whiteness, it turns out, is a very recent idea in the grand scheme of history, but it’s a powerful one that was used to create categories and systems that would place value, economically and otherwise, on skin color and the groups of people who were either blessed or burdened by it. If race could be used to indicate a group’s level of intelligence, its work ethic, and its tendency to do wrong, then the majority culture could justify all types of bigotries and discriminations.” — **Dave Unander**, *Shattering the Myth of Race: Genetic Realities and Biblical Truths*

“I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen’s Counciler or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the WHITE MODERATE, who is more devoted to ‘order’ than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: ‘I agree with you in the goal you seek but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action’; who

paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a 'more convenient season.'" — **Martin Luther King Jr.**, *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*

4 Stages People Live In Concerning Other Cultures:

1. Segregation: total and complete separation ruled by prejudice
2. Toleration: recognition that other cultures have rights accompanied by a silent unwillingness to move beyond that
3. Integration: willingness to mix together as a sign of acceptance but an unwillingness to move off of one's cultural stand
4. Reconciliation: a change of the inward heart condition that adopts a KINGDOM mindset of doing life together

Colossians 3:10-14 NLT

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

Characteristics of the Higher Order of Love:

1. Rises above offenses

Proverbs 18:19 NKJ

A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Matthew 24:10-11 NKJ

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.”

Offense: SKANDALON — Greek word for the trap to catch an animal

Betray: no longer defend or guard another person

Hate: no more grace for that relationship

“Offense can distort or divide a relationship that once was obvious or ordained.”

2. Lives in a perpetual state of forgiveness.

Acts 24:16 NKJ

This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Hebrews 12:14-15 NKJ

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any ROOT OF BITTERNESS springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled ...

3. Your love for God is measured by the person you love the least.

1 John 4:20-21 NIV

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Romans 12:17-21 NIV

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at

peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.